

RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

MARCH, 2014

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

INDIANAPOLIS, IN

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WILL BE
TUESDAY, MARCH 11th, 6:30 PM AT [G.T. SOUTH'S](#),
5711 E. 71st STREET, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

RCA ARC NEWS

SUMMARY OF THE 11-FEB MEETING – Thanks to all those who attended the Feb. Meeting. Jim, K9RU reported that the Club's insurance has been paid for another year. Field Day with the Indy Radio club was discussed. Any suggestions for changes or improvement should be forwarded to K9RU, or Dave N9KZJ. The Indy Hamfest (July 12) was discussed and the club will setup again this year to sell stuff in the indoor flea market building. If you had an indoor table at the Indy Hamfest last year they will be mailing out a form in March to reserve your tables for this year. Leroy, WA4OTD, reported the plan to locate a ham station using the RCA ARC's IC-756 Pro at his church is under review and we should hear a decision in about a month. Jim AF9A, reported the computer for the repeater Echolink has been configured and is awaiting the "text to voice" program to be located. (Update, we found it). A general discussion ensued about possible upcoming TV channel allocations, the destruction of the RCA / Thomson facility at 600 N Sherman Drive, and new Gieco claims center on the 2nd floor of the old Thomson Tech building on N Meridian, Carmel. Remember the Brownsburg Hamfest on Feb 22.

NEXT TEST AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE TEST SESSION --

Time: Saturday, March 8, 2014, 12:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

Location: Salvation Army EDS Training Facility, 4020 Georgetown Rd., Indy, IN 46254-2407

Contact: Jim Rinehart, K9RU. k9ru@arrl.net 317 495-1933

TWO OPPORTUNITIES FOR STORM SPOTTER TRAINING IN MARION COUNTY –

Indianapolis: IUPUI, Campus Center 420 University Blvd., Rm. 268, March 10, 7:00 pm

Indianapolis: IPSC, 8468 E. 21st St., March 22, 9:00 am

Additional sessions can be found here:

http://www.crh.noaa.gov/news/display_cmsstory.php?wfo=ind&storyid=47586&sour

HAMFESTS, OPERATING EVENTS, VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Mar 08	Terre Haute Hamfest & Computer Expo, http://www.w9uuu.org/
Mar 22	Sam Costa Marathon, Carmel, IN contact Tim Vermande kd5urs@gmail.com
Mar 22-24	CQ WW WPX Phone Contest http://www.cqwpw.com/
Mar 29	Columbus ARC Hamfest, Columbus, IN http://www.carcnet.org/
Apr 12	North Central Indiana Hamfest, Peru, IN http://www.nci-hamfest.net/
Apr 12	Carmel Marathon, Carmel, IN contact Steve Kremer kf9za@kremer.com
May 3	Indianapolis Mini Marathon contact Mike Karmer n9feb@comcast.net
May 3-4	Indiana QSO Party http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/rules.html
May 16-18	Dayton Hamvention http://www.hamvention.org/
May 17	IRC Charter bus trip to Dayton Hamfest ws9h@arrl.net
May 17	Geist Half-Marathon contact Mike Karmer n9feb@comcast.net
May 24	500 Festival Parade contact Mike Karmer n9feb@comcast.net
May 24-25	CQ WW WPX CW Contest http://www.cqwpw.com/
June 14-16	ARRL June VHF QSO Party http://www.arrl.org/june-vhf
June 21	ADA Tour de Cure contact Mike Karmer n9feb@comcast.net
June 28-29	ARRL Field Day http://www.arrl.org/field-day

June 29 N.I.T.E. Ride, contact Elaine Carter KC9KZH@hotmail.com
July 12 Indianapolis Hamfest, Marion Co. Fairgrounds, www.indyhamfest.com

All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC.

<http://www.arrl.org/contest-update-issues> Contests updates
<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/> WA7BNM Contest Calendar
<http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations> ARRL Special Event Stations page
http://www.arrl.org/exam_sessions/search ARRL training page for test sessions
<http://indyhams.org/events/> Indiana events and public service opportunities.

10 – 20 METERS BAND CONDITIONS HAVE BEEN GREAT

We are nearing the end of the peak for this sun spot cycle and condition 10 – 20 meters have been great. 10 meters is open worldwide during the day, 12 meters has a lot of activity and 15 meters and 17 meters are great with 20 meters open till midnight.

During the ARRL DX phone contest last weekend 10 meters was packed from 28.3 to 28.8 MHz.

The CQ WW WPX phone in March will be the last major DX contest of the season. This may be your last chance to enjoy conditions this good. - K9RU

MORE AMATEUR RADIO CUBESATS RELEASED INTO ORBIT FROM ISS, LAUNCHED FROM JAPAN

Several Amateur Radio CubeSats, including [LituanicaSAT-1](#) and [Litsat-1](#), have been deployed into orbit from the International Space Station. LituanicaSAT-1 and LitSat-1 are Lithuania's first satellites. NASA reported that the nanosat deployments took place February 26, 27, and 28, as the onboard [Expedition 38](#) crew prepared for the arrival of a US commercial cargo craft and the departure of three crew members. The ISS crew also released [ArduSat-2](#) (Arduino Satellite 2, an improved 2 unit version of the single-unit ArduSat-1), [UAPSat-1](#), [Chasqui-1](#), and the nonamateur 915 MHz SkyCube.

"Two sets of [NanoRacks](#) CubeSats were deployed late Wednesday and early Thursday from a deployer mechanism on the Multi-Purpose Experiment Platform attached to the Kibo robotic arm," NASA said, "leaving just two more launches to go of the 33 CubeSats that were delivered to the station in January by Orbital Sciences *Cygnus* cargo ship." The ISS crew releases CubeSats over several orbits to avoid collisions. More CubeSats are scheduled to be delivered to the station on the second Orbital Sciences commercial resupply mission in May; it's not known at this time if any Amateur Radio satellites will be aboard.

"Lithuania [is] becoming a space country! Congrats!" enthused [Andris Slavinskis](#) on the Litsat-1 Facebook page. It appears that both Lithuanian CubeSats are already functioning, and a Brazilian station has reported hearing Litsat-1's beacon on 145.850 MHz (call sign LY1LS). LithuanicaSAT-1's builders at Vilnius University have requested that Earth stations listen for the CubeSat's FM beacon on 437.275 MHz (call sign LY5N) and [submit](#) data including audio files online. Litsat-1 was developed by the Lithuanian Space Association.

LituanicaSAT-1 carries an FM transponder (uplink 145.950 MHz/downlink 435.180 MHz) and an AX.25 packet transponder (uplink 145.850 MHz/downlink 437.550 MHz). The CW beacon is on 437.275 MHz.

Litsat-1 carries an SSB transponder (uplink 435.180 MHz/downlink 145.950 MHz) and an AX.25 packet transponder (uplink 437.550 MHz/downlink 145.850 MHz).

ArduSat-2 will transmit 9.6 MSK CCSDS data on a 437 MHz downlink. Its mission is to provide a platform on which the students and DIY space enthusiasts may design and run their own space-based Arduino experiments.

UAPSAT will carry an AX.25 packet transponder (uplink 145.980 MHz/downlink 437.385 MHz). Developed by the [Universidad Alas Peruanas](#) in Peru, the satellite includes magnets to align

the satellite with Earth's magnetic field.

[Chasqui-1](#), developed by scientists at the National University of Engineering ([UNI](#)) in Peru, will transmit AX.25 format data on 437.250 MHz.

On February 11 the ISS crew released a fleet of 28 Earth-imaging nanosatellites called [Flock 1](#).

In addition to this week's CubeSat deployments from the ISS, seven Japanese Amateur Radio satellites [launched](#) successfully from Earth February 27. They include the [ARTSAT: INVADER](#) CubeSat (call sign JQ1ZKK) and six other Amateur Radio satellites, along with the Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM) core observatory satellite.

The other Amateur Radio satellites are [OPUSat](#), [STARS-II](#) (comprises mother and daughter satellites), [TelkyoSat-3](#), [ITF-1](#), and [ShindaiSat-1](#). The launch took place from the Yoshinobu Launch Complex at the Tanegashima Space Center. [More information](#) and frequencies for these satellites are on the AMSAT-UK website.

In addition, the University of Louisiana [CAPE-2](#) (Cajun Advanced Picosatellite Experiment) CubeSat has been designated OSCAR-75 or LO-75, AMSAT OSCAR Number Administrator Bill Tynan, W3XO, has announced. CAPE-2 operates on 145.825 MHz, with a CW beacon that identifies with the call sign W5UL. It also includes a digipeater, text-to-speech module, a simplex repeater, and e-mail and tweet functions. Ground station software is [available](#). [FUNcube](#) was recently designated OSCAR-73 or AO-73, while [CubeBug-2](#) (aka "Manolito") has been designated as LO-74 (see [PE0SAT](#)). -- ARRL Letter, AMSAT News Service

ARRL BOARD REQUESTS MEMBER COMMENTS ABOUT DIGITAL MODES

At the January 2014 ARRL Board of Directors meeting, a resolution was passed which asked for member feedback and input pertaining to the increasing popularity of data modes. The information gathered by this investigation is to be used by the HF Band Planning Committee of the Board as a means to suggest ways to use our spectrum efficiently so that these data modes may "compatibly coexist with each other." As per the resolution, the ARRL Board of Directors is now reaching out to the membership and requesting cogent input and thoughtful feedback on matters specific to digital mode operation on the HF bands.

The feedback may include, but is not limited to, the recent proposal the ARRL made to the FCC, RM 11708, regarding the elimination of the symbol rate restrictions currently in effect.

The Board of Directors believes that member input in the decision making process is both valuable and important as well as fostering a more transparent organization. It is to this end that we open this dialogue.

Comments must be received no later than **March 31, 2014** to be included in the Committee's report to the Board at the July 2014 ARRL Board of Directors meeting.

Please e-mail your comments to: HF-Digital-Bandplanning@arrl.org

For more information <http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-board-requests-member-comments-about-digital-modes> Concerned members may also contact their Division Director by mail, telephone or in person with any relevant information. --ARRL

MELLISH REEF DXPEDITION READY TO PICK UP THE POST-FT5ZM SLACK

With the hubbub generated by the just-ended FT5ZM Amsterdam Island DXpedition still echoing in our ears, the Mellish Reef [VK9MT](#) DXpedition is waiting in the wings to launch its own adventure on the Amateur Radio airwaves. VK9MT will be handing out another rare one March 29 through April 9 from the Coral Sea atoll.

"Congratulations to the FT5ZM team for their excellent operation," Team Mellish said in a February 20 [news update](#). "Our equipment is on the way to Australia, and the team is making last-minute preparations for their journey to Australia." An advance team is set to arrive in Australia on March 18 to start retrieving equipment from storage and preparing for the sea voyage.

The team has selected the 25 meter passenger expedition yacht [Evohe](#) from New Zealand to transport operators and gear to Mellish Reef. Given the paucity of dry land at the operating site, DXpedition participants plan to take their meals and sleep on the vessel.

A pilot team now is in place to manage all communication between the island team and DXers. "While on the island we will not be checking personal e-mail accounts," the team pointed out, adding, "Please direct operational suggestions to the pilot designated for your region." An [online log](#) will be available. The DXpedition also has spelled out its [QSL policy](#).

Located some 1150 kilometers north-northeast of Brisbane, Australia, Mellish Reef takes the form of a boomerang-shaped platform some 10 kilometers long and 3 kilometers wide. According to the VK9MT website, the surrounding reefs, which enclose a narrow lagoon, are completely submerged or awash at high tide. Near the lagoon's center is the only permanent land -- Heralds-Beacon Islet -- a small cay rising just a few meters above the high-water mark and composed largely of sand, shingle, and coral rubble.

The schedule calls for 10 full days of operation on 160 through 10 meters, CW, SSB, and RTTY, with 10 operators. Six members of the successful December 2012 ZL9HR operation from Campbell Island are among the team members.

Australia's Commonwealth Marine Reserve Operations Department will require that the visitors follow the department's documented environmental protection regulations. "Effective July 1, 2014, Mellish Reef becomes part of Australia's new Coral Sea Marine Reserve Management Program, which implements additional restrictions to further protect the area's ecology," an earlier team announcement noted. "[W]e appreciate the Australian government's cooperation and spirit of partnership in making this DXpedition possible." The Australian Communications and Media Authority issued the call sign VK9MT last fall. Mellish Reef was last activated in 2009 and is number 23 on ClubLog's February 2014 [DXCC Most Wanted List](#).

The team said it was "honored" to receive an ARRL [Colvin Award](#) grant, funded through an endowment established by Lloyd Colvin, W6KG (SK). The DXpedition budget is estimated at \$110,000, not including operators' individual expenses. The team has pledged "full financial transparency" for all aspects of the DXpedition. "When the books are closed, clubs and foundations that supported the project will receive a financial accounting," Team Mellish has said. [Contact](#) the DXpedition via e-mail. The DXpedition also has a [Facebook page](#).

Several members of the VK9MT team plan to attend Dayton Hamvention in May and the Friedrichshafen, Germany, Ham Radio exhibition in June. --ARRL Letter

FCC, MANUFACTURER CONCLUDE CONSENT DECREE ON MARKETING OF NONCOMPLIANT DEVICE

The FCC and the manufacturer of a device that wirelessly reports propane tank levels have entered into a [Consent Decree](#) that concludes an investigation into whether the company had been marketing a noncompliant RF device. It also provides a window into how the Commission occasionally resolves certain enforcement proceedings. The EnerTrac "Big Drops System" operated as an unlicensed Part 15 intentional radiator on 433 MHz; the manufacturer has since shifted to a licensed Part 90 frequency. According to the terms of the arrangement, EnerTrac will admit no wrongdoing, agree not to break the rules in the future, and make a "voluntary contribution" of \$13,000 to the US Treasury. In return the FCC will drop the entire matter.

"After reviewing the terms of the *Consent Decree* and evaluating the facts before us," the FCC said, "we find that the public interest would be served by adopting the *Consent Decree* and terminating the investigation.

As the FCC pointed out in the *Consent Decree*, intentional radiators must first receive FCC certification before being marketed in the US. Part 15 rules prescribe the maximum field strength emission limits for "periodic operation of intentional radiators that transmit at certain frequencies, including frequencies in the 433 MHz band," the FCC explained. While the Amateur Service enjoys privileges on 70

centimeters on a secondary basis, many unlicensed Part 15 devices operate in the vicinity of 433 MHz on a non-interference basis.

Prior to marketing the Big Drops System, EnerTrac submitted relevant information and a sample device to the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology (OET). The OET certified the device as being in compliance with Part 15 rules.

In July 2012, the FCC received a complaint that the Big Drops System was not operating within the terms of its authorization. The Commission issued a *Letter of Inquiry* to EnerTrac, which reminded the FCC that the 433 MHz Big Drops System had been tested for compliance with Part 15 rules and had been certified by the FCC. The OET tested the system, however, and determined that it exceeded Part 15 emission limits, suggesting that there may have been differences between the unit tested for certification purposes and the version that EnerTrac marketed.

Subsequently EnerTrac told the FCC that the devices it was marketing "had the same radio frequency characteristics as the device certified" and the device the OET tested. EnerTrac further reported that it had ceased marketing the 433 MHz Big Drops System in November 2012 and had begun marketing a new Part 90 (Private Land Mobile Radio Services) device to replace it.

In terminating its investigation, the FCC Enforcement Bureau agreed that "in the absence of new material evidence," it would not use facts developed in the investigation to institute a new proceeding or take action against EnerTrac concerning matters that were at the heart of the investigation. The bureau also said it would not use any of the findings of its investigation in determining EnerTrac's basic qualifications to hold FCC licenses or authorizations.

Among other stipulations, EnerTrac, in turn, agreed to pull its 433 MHz Big Drops System devices out of service by the end of 2017. The company would have to remove immediately any device that is the subject of a complaint of unlawful interference, however. Read [more](#). --ARRL Letter

LAUNCH OF TWO HUNDRED 437MHZ SATELLITES

The largest ever launch of 437 MHz satellites is planned for March 16 at 0841 UT when 200 **Sprite** satellites will be launched on the SpaceX Falcon 9 CRS 3 mission

They will be deployed into a 325×315 km 51.5 degree inclination orbit. You should be able to watch the launch live on NASA TV at <http://www.nasa.gov/multimedia/nasatv>

A Sprite is a tiny, 3.5 by 3.5 cm, single-board spacecraft that was developed by Zac Manchester KD2BHC. It has a microcontroller, radio, and solar cells and is capable of carrying single-chip sensors, such as thermometers, magnetometers, gyroscopes, and accelerometers.

The 200 Sprites are carried in a 3U CubeSat called KickSat. They are stacked atop a spring-loaded pusher and secured by a nichrome burn wire system.

On reaching orbit KickSat will perform a de-tumble maneuver and establish communication with Cornell University's ground station. After check-out, the spacecraft will be put in a sun-pointing attitude and spun up to maintain that attitude.

A command signal from the ground station will then trigger the deployment and the Sprites will be released as free-flying spacecraft. After deployment, telemetry and sensor measurements from the individual Sprites will be received through Cornell's ground station in Ithaca, NY, as well as several other amateur ground stations around the world. Due to the low orbit Sprites will have a short lifetime before they re-enter the atmosphere and burn up. In the best-case scenario the orbital lifetime could be six weeks but realistically it may be considerably shorter depending on atmospheric conditions.

All Sprites operate on a single frequency of 437.240 MHz and use Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA). The transmitter runs 10 mW output of Minimum Shift Keying (MSK) modulated binary data with each data bit modulated as a 511 bit Pseudo-Random Number (PRN) sequence. The ITU emission designator is 50K0G1D.

The KickSat CubeSat has downlinks on 437.505 MHz and 2401-2436.2 MHz. --Southgate ARC

FCC PROPOSES TO FINE TEXAS RADIO AMATEUR \$7000 FOR MALICIOUS INTERFERENCE

The FCC has issued a *Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture* ([NAL](#)) to James R. Winstead, KD5OZY, of Coleman, Texas, after determining that Winstead "apparently willfully violated" FCC rules by interfering with Amateur Radio communications. The Commission proposed a \$7000 fine. The action was in response to complaints from other radio amateurs of intentional interference on 7.195 MHz.

According to the *NAL*, released February 19, an agent from the Commission's Dallas Office on January 21 used direction-finding techniques to positively identify the source of the interfering transmissions as Winstead's address. After monitoring the transmissions from the station for about a half-hour, the agent heard Winstead, an Amateur Extra class licensee, "replay multiple times short sentences or conversations that had just been transmitted, and occasionally speak the word 'George.'"

"Mr Winstead replayed recorded conversations so frequently that other licensees were unable to complete their conversations," the *NAL* stated. The agent estimated that Winstead disrupted approximately 20 minutes of conversation over a 30 minute period by making up to 15 minutes of short transmissions. The agent subsequently inspected Winstead's station, observing that his radio equipment was tuned to 7.195 Mhz.

"During the inspection, Mr Winstead showed the agent how he recorded and retransmitted other amateur licensees' communications," the FCC said. "He also admitted that he intentionally interfered with amateur communications on 7.195 MHz and had an ongoing disagreement with another amateur licensee named George."

The FCC said the evidence in the case was sufficient to establish that Winstead had violated Section 333 of the Communications Act of 1934 and Section 97.101(d) of the FCC Amateur Service rules. Both sections prohibit willful and malicious interference to radio communications. Citing its *Forfeiture Policy Statement* and Section 1.80 of the rules, the FCC determined that Winstead was liable for a \$7000 forfeiture. "We caution Mr Winstead, however, that future violations of this kind may result in significantly higher forfeitures," the FCC stressed. Winstead has 30 days to pay or contest the fine.

On his QRZ.com [page](#), Winstead describes himself as "an electronics technician for about 27 years" and a ham for about 12 years. --ARRL Letter

OHIO TOWN TAKES STATE PRB-1 LOSS APPEAL TO HIGHER COURT

An Ohio town is appealing the States PRB-1 like law into the court system. This after it lost an appeal by a ham who was given the right to put up an antenna that the municipality had denied. The legal issue began when the Village denied Gary Woodtke's tower application and Wodtke, who holds the call WW8N, appealed that decision to the Fulton County Common Pleas Court. The Court ruled in favor of Wodtke telling the Village that it must approve a variance to WW8N's antenna support structure. Instead the Village is now appealing that order into the Court of Appeals for the Sixth District.

On February 4th the Village of Swanton Ohio filed a notice of appeal of its intention to challenge the decision of the Fulton County Common Pleas Court in the case of Gary Wodtke versus the Village of Swanton. In its docketing statement the Village of Swanton asserts four potential issues including one that questions whether Revised Code Section enacted by H.B. 158, which is Ohio's version of the Federal PRB-1 statute is constitutional. It also questions whether H.B. 158 was constitutionally applied in this case. Ohio law [grants](#) a right of appeal from final decisions of a Common Pleas Court. Appellate decisions are heard by a three judge panel that is usually designated near the time for oral argument. Decisions normally take a number of months after oral arguments are made.

Appellate decisions are generally final, unless further review is granted by the Ohio Supreme Court. While such a Court of Appeals decision represents the law only in that appellate district, it has the ability to be used as a significant precedent in other Ohio courts. It also can be cited in cases in other states that have passed similar state versions of the FCC regulations that are outlined in the text of PRB-1.

Late word is that the ARRL has announced its intention to file a Friend of the Court brief on behalf of Woodtke. This is likely because of the long term potential a finding against WW8N might hold by impacting on any ham living anywhere in the United States.

WW8N is represented by Toledo attorney Carey Cooper and by Fred Hopengarten, K1VR. Hopengarten is considered a national authority on zoning law and amateur radio antenna issues.

SHORTS

A NEW MODULATION METHOD. REALLY? New modulation schemes don't come along very often. In fact, it has been years...decades really.... since any new modulation method has been invented. Remember there are only three basic ways a carrier can be modulated: by varying the amplitude, frequency or phase. Or some combination of those. Most of the useful combinations have already been discovered and either ignored or adopted.

Whether you know it or not, the most popular modulation scheme in use in the wireless world today is QAM or quadrature amplitude modulation. It is a combination of both amplitude and phase modulation. Digital bit sequences are represented as unique amplitude-phase variants of the carrier. For example, 64QAM uses 64 different amplitude-phase combinations to represent any 6-bit combination.

Anyway, along comes a new company, MagnaCom, with a new modulation method called WAVE Modulation (WAM). You won't find it any textbook and the company won't reveal any details on how it works. [Read more about it](http://patft.uspto.gov/netacgi/nph-Parser?Sect1=PTO2&Sect2=HITOFF&p=1&u=/netahtml/PTO/search-bool.html&r=3&f=G&l=50&co1=AND&d=PTXT&s1=MagnaCom&OS=MagnaCom&RS=MagnaCom) The patent application is here: <http://patft.uspto.gov/netacgi/nph-Parser?Sect1=PTO2&Sect2=HITOFF&p=1&u=/netahtml/PTO/search-bool.html&r=3&f=G&l=50&co1=AND&d=PTXT&s1=MagnaCom&OS=MagnaCom&RS=MagnaCom>
--Electronic Design

RDF BRACELET HELPS OREGON HAMS TO LOCATE MISSING MAN -- Members of the Lane County (Oregon) Sheriff's Amateur Radio Operators ([LCSARO](#)) -- an ARRL-Affiliated Club -- used radio direction-finding techniques to locate a 78-year-old Eugene, Oregon, man suffering from dementia, who had gone missing. The man's wife reported February 16 that her husband had wandered away from the couple's home, east of the University of Oregon Campus.

Fortunately, the man was one of six at-risk individuals in the county equipped with a [Project Lifesaver](#) RDF bracelet. As a result, the specially trained hams in the sheriff's department were able to track down and locate the missing person in downtown Eugene. He was not injured. The ham radio team minimizes the need for large-scale search parties that typically involve many agencies, hundreds of police officers, and thousands of dollars in cost. The LCSARO also supports communication in disaster and emergency situations. -- [Nevada Amateur Radio Newswire](#)

SPECIAL CALL SIGNS TO COMMEMORATE RUSSIAN SPACE PIONEER'S BIRTH, SPACEFLIGHT -- [Special call signs](#) will mark Russian cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin's first human spaceflight -- a complete Earth orbit on April 12, 1961. The operations celebrate Gagarin's birth 80 years ago in 1934 (he died in 1968) and the historic spaceflight 53 years ago. Those years and the number "80" are embedded in each call sign. The activity will take place March 1-April 30. A certificate is available. Kazakhstan also will field several special UP-prefix call signs in Gagarin's honor, all with the suffix "KEDR." That was the call sign Gagarin used on his historic space mission. QSL via RW6HS.
-- Thanks to [The Daily DX](#)

CENTRAL STATES VHF SOCIETY ISSUES CALL FOR PAPERS, PRESENTATIONS: The Central States VHF Society ([CSVHFS](#)) is [soliciting](#) papers, presentations, and poster displays for the 48th

annual [CSVHFS Conference](#), July 25-27, 2014. These may pertain to all aspects of VHF and above Amateur Radio operating. Those submitting do not need to attend the conference nor present their papers to have them included in the *Conference Proceedings*. Posters will be displayed during the conference. For more information, visit the CSVHFS website or [e-mail](#) the organization. -- *Thanks to Tom Apel, K5TRA*

KENWOOD BUYS E.F. JOHNSON: JVC Kenwood has [purchased](#) E.F. Johnson Technologies. Johnson has been manufacturing radio gear for a long time and was a major player in the 1950s and 1960s. Today, it's not unusual to see hamfest vintage equipment tables loaded with Johnson Rangers, Vikings, and Thunderbolts, and many E.F. Johnson "Matchbox" antenna tuners are still doing the job. In more recent years, the company has become better known for its VHF and UHF public safety communication gear. -- *Thanks to [The ARRL Contest Update](#)*

IDAHO HAM SERIOUSLY INJURED IN TOWER MISHAP – Robert "Bearpaw" Galindo, KE7ADT, of Athol, Idaho, was critically injured February 13 when the winching cable of his 40 foot crank-up tower snapped while he was working on the tower. Galindo, 52, a General class licensee and ARRL member, was reported trapped and dangling 20 feet in the air when rescue crews arrived at his home. His wife, Gail Perry, KE7ADN, witnessed the accident and called 911. The mishap resulted in the loss of Galindo's right hand and several fingers of his left hand. Galindo was listed in critical condition at a Coeur d'Alene hospital following the surgery and was expected to remain hospitalized for several days. -- *Thanks to John Bigley, N7UR, [Nevada Amateur Radio Newswire](#)*

“HAM VIDEO” SET FOR INSTALLATION, COMMISSIONING – The “Ham Video” transmitter aboard the International Space Station is scheduled to be installed on March 6, with commissioning to follow. The European Space Agency ([ESA](#)) postponed the installation and commissioning of the Ham Video system last month because NASA Astronaut Mike Hopkins, KF5LJG — who is handling the installation and commissioning — had other priorities. Amateur Radio on the International Space Station-Europe ([ARISS-EU](#)) Chairman Gaston Bertels, ON4WF, said that a couple of the commissioning steps now may be combined, to condense the process.

The first commissioning step is planned for March 8, when Hopkins will power up the Ham Video transmitter in “Configuration 1” — using ARISS antenna 41 on the ISS *Columbus* module at a frequency 2.422 GHz and a symbol rate of 1.3 Ms/s. Transmission will start shortly before the ISS passes over the Matera ground station in Southern Italy (at approximately 1329 UTC). The ground station will stream the video over the [BATC server](#) (select Member Streams and ISS). See more at <http://www.arrl.org/news/ham-video-set-for-installation-commissioning>

SUN UNLEASHES AN X CLASS FLARE TOWARD EARTH - If you are wondering about the strange band conditions the past few days, the sun may be the culprit. According to Spaceweather sunspot AR1967 returned to the Earthward looking side of the of our home star on February 25th and promptly erupted. This sent an X4.9-class solar flare headed our way. So far this is the strongest flare of the year and one of the strongest of the current solar cycle. We suggest that you keep an eye on <http://spaceweather.com> for updates about solar activity and its affect on radio propagation. --Spaceweather.com

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